fertilizers for direct application as well as for production of complex fertilizers is met through imports.

Price rise of Life-saving Drugs

138. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the effect of price rise in life saving drugs on the poor people, who are suffering from T.B., and other dreaded diseases; and

(b) in what way Government propose to cope up with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Life saving nature of the drugs depends upon a particular situation and circumstance. The DPCO, 95 does not make a distinction between life saving drugs and other drugs. Changes in the price of drugs and medicines are bound to take place because of variation in the cost of inputs, changes in consumption norms and technology, etc. Treatment of T.B. is covered under a National Health Programme of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and medicines are distributed free to the needy, through the Government hospitals/dispensaries.

Lifting of Price control on the drug industry

139. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic and multinational pharma companies have demanded lifting of price control on the drug industry?

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There have been representations made to the Government

from time to time by the pharmaceutical industry on various issues, including the lifting of price control on drugs and pharmaceuticals. The Drug Price Control Review Committee was constituted by Government in the light of such representations. Its report was received in October, 1999.

Clean Environment and Chemical Industry

140. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that keeping of the environment clean in the Chemical industry will help reduce operational cost and bring down energy consumption in that industry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Selective procurement of raw material, installation of sophisticated equipment and improvement in processes can result in cleaning up the environment. While the initial investment may be high, in the long run it may result in reduced recurring costs. The Government is laying down rigorous standards and the industry is using its ingenuity to achieve synergy between clean environment and cost reduction.

Production of Fertilizers by HFC

141. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what plan has been taken up by the Ministry to save industries under the HFC;

(b) the details of production of fertilizers in the HFC units; and

(c) what new development is going on to save the Namrup